Demand for ban on Sale of Pan Masala

2715. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 100 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 1994 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of voluntary organisations have moved to ban the consumption and sale of Pan Masala and other similar harmful products but with no results;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking action in this matter;

(c) whether Government propose to take some effective steps at least to curtail its consumption 'if not' ban its use; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA) (a) and (b) Requests from a few voluntary organisations to ban or restrict the use of pan masala have been received. The Government have constituted a high level technical committee of experts to go into the details about the effects of pan masala and other similar products. The Committee met twice and has entrusted the work to Indian Council of Medical Research to compile data research papers available on the subject and submit to the Committee.

(c) and (d) Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 the following statutory labelling provisions on pan masala have been laid down:

"Chewing of pan masala may be injurious to health" Besides, advertisement promoting pan masala on Television and All India Radio have been banned.

Discussion on Salient Features of proposed Legislation to ban the use of Tobacco

2716. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has called a meeting of some members of Parliament for discussion on the salient features of the proposed legislation to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products;

(b) if so, the names of the MPs invited, the details of the discussion that took place and the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether such meeting was called/ proposed with representatives of bidi and tobacco workers; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the meeting could not take place.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*see* below)

(c) No, Sir.

Statement

Names of M.Ps invited for discussion proposed Legislation

1. Prof. U. Venkateswarlu, (LS)
2. Shri V. Hanumantha Rao (RS)
3. Shri Laljan Basha (LS)
4. Shri Subbarao T. Thota (LS)
5. Shri Satish Pradhan (RS)
6. Shri V. Rajan Chellappa (RS)
7. Shri S. Austin (RS)
8. Shri Balraj Pasi (LS)
9. Shri Gundappa Korwar (RS)
10. Shri Chetan P.S. Chauhan (LS)
11. Shri Sarat Pattanayak (LS)
12. Shri Manjay Lal (LS)
13. Shri M.M. Hashmi (RS)
14. Shri Allola Indrakaran Reddy (LS)

15. Shri Rama Krishna Kanthala (LS)
16. Shri D.K. Naikar (LS)
17. Shri Bola Bulli Ramaih (LS)
18. Shri R. Surendra Reddy (LS)
19. Shri Yellaih Nandi (LS)
20. Shri A. Prathap Sai (LS)
21. Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi (LS)
22. Kumari Kamala Kerreoddula (LS)
23. Shri Brishin Patel (LS)
24. Shri Rudrasen Chaudhry (LS)
25. Shri Kashiram Rana (LS)
26. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav (LS)
27. Shri S.R. Bomai (RS)
28. Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi (LS)
29. Shri Lal Babu Rai (LS)
30. Shri Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy (LS)
31. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan (LS)
32. Shri G. Prathapa Reddy (RS)
33. Shri Y. Narayana Swamy (RS)
34. Moh. Afzal (RS)
35. Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav (RS)
36. Shri P.V. Patil (LS)
37. Shri Sureshanand Swami (LS)
38. Shri Ramachandra Veerappa (LS)
39. Shri Inder Kumar Gujaral (RS)
40. Shri Rajani Ranjan Sahu (RS)
41. Shri Anna Joshi (LS)
42. Shri Indrajit Gupta (LS)
43. Shri Chaturanan Mishra (RS)
44. Shri Dharmaraju Satyanarayana (RS)
45. Shri Suresh Kalmadi (RS)

Banning of smoking in public places

2717. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of a call for a ban on smoking made at meetings held, of and on as smoking causes cancer;

(b) whether it is a fact that smoking is banned in public places such as buildings, transport-oily sector and sensitive places of atmosphere around; and

(c) if so, whether Government are thinking seriously on putting a complete ban on smoking as this is our motto "smoking is injurious for health"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Government has already prohibited smoking in selected public places like hospitals, dispensaries, educational institutions, conference rooms, domestic air, flights, air-conditioned chair, sub-urban trains and air-conditioned and sleeper coaches in trains, buses through an administrative order issued in May, 1990. With a view to make the ban legally enforceable, it has since been decided to enact a comprehensive legislation which would inter-alia, provide for ban on smoking in these places as also in such other places as may be notified by the Government from time to time.

Sick units in Orissa

2718. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some major and medium units in Orissa have fallen sick;

(b) if so, the details of such units and the reasons of their sickness;

(c) the steps taken to revive those units; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by